

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment**

May we have public commentary, please?

MR. KAWARATANI: My name is Yukio Kawaratani. And I want to say I'm rather disappointed and I feel misled. And I plea for some equity.

The original law says there will be funding for new construction and for remodeling. Also, it's said there will be new priorities and, as Senator Alpert knows, the joint development thing under the new construction was watered down, whereby everybody qualified.

But in terms of the remodel, we had an also nearly-impossible goal, and per the applications, no one can reach it. So the second priority became, in a sense, the first priority, because you're supposed to be funding both.

We were assured at the last bond Board meeting -- I don't know how many of you were here -- that, you know, I said, "Should we even submit for a second-priority remodel?" And we were quite assured by the Board and the staff that, "Oh, no, you ought to submit. And if you put in an outstanding application, you will be funded."

We have put in an outstanding application and we've been pushed aside.

CHAIR STARR: Sir, what library are you talking on behalf of?

MR. KAWARATANI: The Bruggemeyer Library in Monterey Park.

CHAIR STARR: Monterey Park?

MR. KAWARATANI: We're number two on the outstanding list there. And, you know, you're saying, "Forget it." I mean, we've spent a lot of effort, and we were assured that if we really did it, we would be funded because, you know, nobody met that 512-K telecommunications. It was an impossible goal. And, you know, the joint development, originally it was an impossible goal, too, until it was watered down.

So I just feel that, gosh, we're really being let down. We put a lot of effort into this. And we were assured that, "Hey, do a good job, and you'll be considered." It seems we're just being, you know, pushed aside.

Also, you know, the staff made a point that they had no interference by anybody in terms of their -- their --

CHAIR STARR: Evaluation process.

MR. KAWARATANI: -- evaluation process. And

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

so -- you know, so we're right up there, supposedly. But the staff is saying, "Yes, you did an outstanding application." But, you know, I haven't heard nothing about rehab. And the original law says there will be two fundings.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

MR. KAWARATANI: I just ask for, you know, your consideration.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you very much. Very clear points, and very forcefully made.

Sir, identify your library before speaking.

MR. WEBB: My name is Don Webb; and I'm here representing the City of Newport Beach, for the Mariners Library. I'm the newly-elected councilmember. I have not been sworn in, and won't be sworn in until next Tuesday. I have a rather unique background, though, in that I was with the city for 33 years, retired a year and a half ago. And so I'm very familiar. I actually live across the street from where this proposed library would be constructed.

It seems like the questions that were raised, as I understand them, were the letters of opposition that were received by you and some of the regional concerns. Let me first address the letters. It's my understanding, again, that the letters in opposition were from six different people. That also you received letters in support from the City Council, the Newport Mesa School District, the library board trustees, as well as several donors.

So far as -- our understanding is that we discussed whether or not we would submit a whole bunch of letters in support, and we were discouraged from doing that. And perhaps we now should have.

The concerns that were primarily raised were related to security of students, the co-located facility was located immediately adjacent to the Mariners School. We modified it significantly to answer all of the concerns that we felt were raised, as far as making sure that during school hours there would definitely be a separation between the public and the students from the school. The students would enter it from separate entrances, which is immediately adjacent to the school and only about 20 or 30 feet away.

If we were to have to try to do the same thing on the existing library site, it's close to 500 feet, the teachers have told us that they can't afford the extra ten to fifteen minutes to walk across, plus you would not be able to provide the security.

So we feel, as far as letters of opposition are concerned, that we've answered those.

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment**

As far as region is concerned, the new location for the library immediately adjacent to Mariners would be on the boundary between Newport Beach and Costa Mesa. This site serves roughly 25,000 residents, both from Newport and Costa Mesa. Newport is a unique geographic feature, in that it's separated and cut in half by a bay. This library serves the older part of the community with the new branch library that we constructed about 12,

14 years ago, on the other side of the bay.

The renovations that occurred in 1995 were primarily painting the -- expanded into an older patio area to try to create a little bit greater children's zone. The existing facility on the school site that we would be incorporating into our city facility is only a

900 square foot temporary building. Very inadequate for the school. And we were hoping to be able to provide a facility to where the school could have the opportunity of a full public children's library.

And as far as other schools that would be served by this library, there are two other elementary schools, an intermediate school and a high school, roughly about 5,500 students that would be within the area that this library would serve. So that we would respectfully request that you reconsider and include us in your list.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Councilman, for those points. Thank you.

Let's alternate.

MS. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board. My name is Linda Wood. I'm the Alameda County librarian. And I'd like to draw your attention to the Castro Valley Library project. It's number 1007. And it's in the "very good" rating category.

Castro Valley library is a branch of the Alameda County library. We believe we have an excellent site in the heart of Castro Valley, which is an aging and fairly well built-out suburban area. We believe it's the largest unincorporated area in California. The population is approaching 60,000 and will go up closer to 70,000 before 2020.

The library site is excellent. It's right in the heart of the commercial and traffic transit corridors. It's a quarter of a mile from the BART station, the regional Bay Area transportation network. All the bus lines that serve Castro Valley depart and come back to that station, so it's walking distance from all those transportation facilities to the new library site. It's an urban infill project.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

The community, as an unincorporated area, has no community center, no city hall, no large meeting rooms for community meetings of any kind. The community is very much behind this project. It will be behind the heart of the community, the community center for Castro Valley. And they're looking forward for the large public meeting room, for many purposes.

It's also the cornerstone of our redevelopment project area in Castro Valley, and was selected by the redevelopment project area advisory committees and chamber of commerce, municipal advisory council, as the single largest priority for local funding from the redevelopment project area in Castro Valley because it's seen as a cornerstone for redevelopment.

The current library facility is only

10,000 square feet. It was built in 1961. It's grossly inadequate to serve the population of this size. Although today it is the fourth busiest branch in the county library system, we see about 800 people a day and many people can't use it because parking is so inadequate. And with 10,000 square feet, we cannot house the collection and services and seating that a community of this size desperately needs. So I urge your attention to this project.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Ms. Wood.

MS. RAINEY: Thank you. Sue Rainey. I'm the Mayor of the City of Walnut Creek. And this is my last day as mayor. I was hoping I could take home good news today. Gwen Regalia is here, who is mayor pro tem.

We have two issues that I would like to raise, and that has to do with the criteria. Mr. Angelides referenced core cities, with a long-term festering problem. Walnut Creek's library was opened in 1961 for

a population of 10,000. We are currently at 65,000, with our library serving a population of approximately 80,000.

When the criteria asks for your population increase between 1980 and 2020, we come out on the low side. If you take the criteria from the time the library was built for the population it was to serve, we are

at -- if you take our exact population, it is a 650 percent increase, or by our service area, an 800 percent increase.

The second criteria that we were concerned with before we would put in our grant application was, being able to operate the library. To be able to keep the

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

doors open. And given the finances of most cities and counties today, that was a big concern.

The citizens of Walnut Creek feel very strongly about libraries. A couple of years ago, a countywide measure was defeated for a sales tax to benefit libraries. The City of Walnut Creek had passed it by two-thirds this last fall. Our citizens of Walnut Creek passed a parcel tax of 22 dollars, so that we would be able to have our new library open.

We do have our old library open 56 hours now; but that shows you how important it is to the citizens of Walnut Creek, and those are two things that I think did not show up on the application.

And we appreciate your consideration. And we will be back.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Madam Mayor.

MR. PAULSON: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, my name is Mark Paulson. I am the Mayor of the City of Alhambra, representing the Alhambra City Library.

When I voted for the Library Bond Act a few years ago, I didn't realize I was voting for rural Library Bond Act. Alhambra is in Los Angeles County, which represents 9.6 million residents. 28 percent are under 18. And you are not suggesting tonight to fund a single project in L.A. County.

I can't go back and improve our application because I cannot make my city rural. We don't have hundreds of undeveloped acres to allow the development you're looking for, but we do have an undersized out-aged library.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

MR. HAYDEN: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board, my name is Matthew Hayden. I'm here representing the City of Calabasas Public Library.

And, first of all, I'd like to thank you all for the hard work that you're doing today. This is not an easy task. But I would like to echo the sentiments of the first speaker, and ask you to reconsider the projects that you have removed from the "outstanding" category.

I think that the staff has done a very good job at reviewing all of these 66 applications, and there's lots of good applications. But they have given you a

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

system with which to look through the projects. And it goes from the "outstanding" to the "very good," and on down.

The City of Calabasas library is a second-priority application, but it's for a new library. There's no existing library there. And like some of the other things that you're talking about, it's a new building, and it's going to be part of the downtown core. It's the third phase of the planning for a downtown core that has mixed-use development. It's accessible by transit. And it's a great project. And I just would like to have you reconsider these projects.

If you were to look at the "outstanding" category, there is a 138 million there. And if you then go down and look at the "very good" category to supplement the funding that's left after that, I think that might be one way to look at it.

The City of Calabasas has worked very hard on its application. And as the first speaker said, we were led to believe that the projects would be considered if they were second priority. And it would depend on how well the project meets the needs that the city has.

And I think our application demonstrates that. It's got an excellent plan of service and a building program and conceptual plans that speak to the needs of the city. So I would ask you to reconsider that project.

And if it's true, I think that things are only going to get worse in the next round, with the amount of need that's out there and the amount of applications that will come in. If second-priority category applications aren't going to be considered, people should be able to save their resources and put them somewhere else instead of applying for them.

But thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

MR. BRAGG: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Board. My name is Raymond Bragg. I'm the Redevelopment and Special Projects Director for the City of Fontana, which is project number 1032 on the list.

Fontana is an older community in one of the fastest-growing areas of the Inland Empire -- and we are probably the fastest growing community in the Inland Empire. When our library was built in 1964, we had a population of about 15,000 to 20,000 people.

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment**

Our service area for our 13,000 square foot library is now -- our population that it serves is about 150,000 to 160,000 people. And that includes over 150,000 school children in four school districts, who are a part of our application.

Our application is a joint venture with the County of San Bernardino, as well as these four school districts and the city. That represents about a sixfold increase in population out of a 13,000-square-foot library with over a thousand kids per day coming in to that facility and using it. So we would ask your consideration, based upon the fact that we are growing probably at the rate of 1,500 to 2,000 new homes per year, every year.

I appreciate your consideration. Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

MS. CHAGNON: Good afternoon, Chairman, Members of the Board. My name is Diane Chagnon, and I'm a city councilmember with the City of Azusa, and I'm also from Los Angeles County.

Our application today is project number 1061, the City of Azusa Library. It is a new library, and we were rated "very good." Thank you for that.

And it is a first-project priority for us. We're looking at building a 60,000 square foot project. And the state grant amount that we are looking for is 14.9 million dollars.

Let me introduce you to our small little city. Azusa has the lowest per capita income. We have the highest portion of renters and the lowest school district test scores. But we have the highest level of community involvement in participation in the projects that we do in our community. We have what's called a "Citizens' Congress," where whenever we do something in our city, we get the community out and involved. Examples would be where we have housing projects that have gone in recently, and we have general plan update amendments that we've been doing. And for the last two years, we've been holding citizens' congresses where our renters, our low income, even our high income, all broad spectrum of people are represented at our meetings, come out and tell us what the Azusa of the future is going to look like, according to them. And it's our job as City Council members to make their dreams and wishes come true.

The demographics, as was pointed out earlier, Los Angeles is about one-third the population of the state of California. And, of and those applicants, that have applied from Los Angeles County, Azusa's population has increased 73 percent. And also, as was stated earlier today, if you look at when our library was originally built and the population that it was supposed to serve, and where we are today, our library -- our current one is currently defunct. Too small.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

We had a bond measure earlier this year where 76.4 percent of our voters approved a tax that will go -- that they will pay to have a library. This is not characteristic of our voters because we've had taxes before posed to the voters, questions regarding fire service fees, various assessment fees, property taxes, and the like; and they typically have been defeated. But our community is very passionate about learning and about education. And our voters decided that, yes, this is an investment they do want to make and that we should make in our community.

We looked at our library, not as a library where you house books and computers and videos, but as a family learning center. And our city emphasizes "family," because it's not just adults that use a library, it's not just children; but it's a family that goes there. And given the characteristic and the make-up of our community, a large population of immigrant Spanish residents that live there; and also those that, in the City of Azusa, you can start at kindergarten, you can go all the way through and get your master's degree in our community. We have a very well-known college, Azusa Pacific University, who partners with us quite frequently in our school reading programs for the children, their Champs program, where every middle-school child has a chance to go to their university, and they can actually fulfill a dream about going to college.

We also have our homework houses, where we have volunteers in the community that open up their homes for the children to come in and be tutored. These are all nonprofit groups that do this for us.

Our new library will allow them a location to go to for tutoring.

Our project status: We have the land available. We have acquired the land. It's in our civic center. It's walkable. It will be located near two of our public transportation locations, as soon as the gold line is completed.

We have our plans. They're ready to go out for final design and then for bid. We are ready to go.

We have new housing that's going to be going into our city for the first time in over two decades. And this housing is both -- well, we have to have a portion for low-income; but it's actually going to be one of our highest-end projects. We've also recently completed 300 homes that are selling to the half a million-dollar range. Now, this may not seem like much for some of you in the counties that you're in, but when the median home price of the City of Azusa was 100,000

to 110,000 dollars within the last couple of years, and our home prices have gone up 60 percent, while others have only gone up 40 percent, that tells you that people are investing in our community.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

We want to make sure that we have a place for our residents to go and to learn. And today you've talked about several factors that are important in awarding the grant money. You talked about joint use. Our project is a joint-use plan. It's a joint-use project with Azusa Unified School District. We also are going to have a brand-new school, K through 8, going to be built in one of the last areas of open land that we still have.

You talked about population growth. You talked about equities. And as was said earlier, I don't see any projects in Los Angeles County being funded. I would hope that ours would be considered.

And you talked about needs of the community. And I hope that I've outlined for you that not only do we have children, but we have young adults, we have adults, we have seniors that, as they move into the computer age and are enjoying what the computers can do for them, they need a place to go.

This library will be located in our civic center, which is across from our city hall, which is one block from our police department, and is located in the same block as our current senior center. So we feel that our application fills many of the things you've talked about today: Joint use, population growth, meeting the needs of the community, and equities.

Thank you for your time.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you. Thank you, Councilwoman.

Yes, ma'am?

MS. WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, I'm Nancy Wright with Monterey County. And on behalf of the tiny community of Castro Valley on the central coast, an agricultural community, I want to thank you for the thoughtful comments that you've made throughout the afternoon that I think will help us in the next round. It's obvious to us, the Friends of the Castro Valley Library who are here with me today, that we really hid our light under a bushel -- or maybe our artichokes under a bushel, and that we didn't give you the chance to get to know us, that we need to do for the next round.

So we hope to take the next couple of months, showcasing to you the opportunities in Castro Valley for our youth, who are wildly enthusiastic about the project and the community that has evidenced overwhelming support for this. But we've learned a lot today, and I really want to express our appreciation for that.

We'll be back, and we'll see you next time.

Thank you.

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment**

CHAIR STARR: Well, thank you for your very gracious acceptance of this painful process.

MS. PAYNE: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, my names is Leslie Payne. I'm principal librarian for the Monterey County Free Libraries. And we have three library projects that we have proposed for you. And we feel like we've been overlooked. We are part of Central California, which is another part of California that hasn't even been mentioned; but I'm going to highlight the Marina Library because it is the highest

on your list. It has a "very good" rating. It's number 1057.

The Marina Library is just 2,300 square feet, and it technically doesn't exist. It's a leased library space. And 2,300 square feet, if you think about it, is smaller than many, many homes in the state of California. And in the Marina Library we have 250 to 300 people who come through every day. So if you can picture 250 to

300 people coming through your home every day, it's quite a crowd.

And so we are -- we're dealing with a really tight space and a lot of people who really would like a library. And Marina has been found to be the seventh-most ethnically-diverse city in the United States. And the majority of the population -- we have Vietnamese, Filipino, Korean. We have some Hispanic community, we have Russian immigrants. We have people from all over the world.

And we have a very nice community, where everybody gets along and it's really wonderful. And we have managed, through bake sales and library brick sales, to raise 270,000 dollars towards the purchase of the site for our new library. And the purchase has taken place and the land is waiting. And in just November, last month, we passed a bond measure for the new library at 80.7 percent approval, which was a real grassroots effort and says a lot for our community.

The City of Marina itself is struggling to get back on its feet after Fort Ord moved away from our community. And so they're really putting a focus on Fort Ord reuse, which is a very expensive proposition at the moment. So the city does not have funds to do the matching funds, and that's why we were able to pass the bond. So we have the matching funds, we have the land.

Our location is at a crossroads between Salinas and the Monterey areas, and is a heavily-used area, in terms of traffic. You can get a lot of people in the library who live in the Carmel, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach area, Monterey, Salinas and Castroville, too, that is represented here today.

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment**

So we're a growing community; and we're a very busy, teeny, tiny library.

We have no community meeting room. And the local organizations are really looking forward to having a place where they can meet. And I'm sure you're aware that the Asian communities are extremely conscientious about their education, and we have a lot of demand for materials in foreign languages; and we actually meet those demands quite well for our teeny, tiny size.

But I just hope that you'll take a look at Central California, the central coast. And this is a small library and a small project; but it would make a really big difference if it were funded.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

MS. JACOB: Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board, my name is Nora Jacob. I'm a library director for the City of Orange Public Library, here to speak about the Orange Main Library expansion proposal, which was one of the 14 rated "outstanding" by the Bond Act staff.

A few words to refocus you on our proposal: We have a tremendously diverse community. We have had rapid population growth. We have what is arguably the smallest city central library in Southern California.

A community-needs assessment indicated tremendous demand for this library and support. And to the extent that we even, in proposing it, put up

1.2 million dollars of the city's own money, unmatched for library materials since more space and materials to fill that space was the number one identified need for our City of Orange.

The Bond Act calls for new and renovated libraries. And we chose to put in a proposal for renovation because it was good stewardship of our city's money. We realized that we could do the project for less than doing it new.

In the spirit of the Bond Act, because our school district -- P.S.: Our school districts, schools in our service area are extremely inadequate -- none of them meets the median state test scores -- but they do have the technological infrastructure minimum, outlined in the regulations. And because of that, we weren't able to be a priority-one project for renovation.

But in the spirit of the Bond Act, we didn't submit a memorandum of understanding with our school district for a joint-use project, a homework center, to happen in our main -- our proposed main library expansion.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

It's pretty disheartening to see that there

are no renovation projects before you now, as you've done this. Our challenge is for those of us practicing stewardship effectively by approaching this whole process through a renovation rather than a new facility, where

do we go when it looks as though the trend is that most of our school districts have this minimum infrastructure? In other words, the regulations put us at a disadvantage, even though the staff of the Office of Library Construction rates us as outstanding.

I would ask for your reconsideration on that.

Thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

Senator Alpert?

MEMBER ALPERT: I wonder, since I was the one who originally proposed this, I wonder if staff could help on this? Because I think there's been some very legitimate points raised by the two facilities that were remodeled facilities that have become priority-two. And I guess I was under the misunderstanding, perhaps, that

I thought that even though it was being -- it was a remodel, that they would be able to propose ways of a joint use with adjoining school districts.

Would you explain this technology piece to me, so I can better understand why they had been -- or why they believe they've been disadvantaged?

MR. HALL: Certainly, Senator.

There are two separate sets of priority-one and priority-two projects in the Bond Act. If you are attempting to be a priority-one project application for a new public library building, you may attempt to become a joint-use project. That's a voluntary effort; but you can take that on, if you so desire.

With a remodeling project, it is a very different scenario. Becoming a joint-use project means nothing in terms of becoming priority one for a remodeling project. The only way you can become a priority-one project for a remodeling project is to have your library project site located within the attendance area of a school district that has inadequate infrastructure based on the regulations, which is the telecommunication connection.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

And so it is, in many respects, quite difficult to become a priority-one project for those remodeling projects. And as is the case, as is evident here, since we have currently no remodeling projects that are priority one that were eligible, it was evidently a very high threshold for those projects to be able to cross over successfully.

MEMBER ALPERT: Thank you.

MR. HALL: And that is a distinction between the two different approaches. They both have priority ones and priority twos, but one is more of a -- you can attempt to become a joint-use project; and if you're successful in getting a cooperative agreement, then you are first priority; whereas with the remodeling projects, it is a different scenario. It's just a matter of where your site happens to fall, and is there a school district that your site is within that has an attendance area that the technology infrastructure is not inadequate.

MS. LLOYD (*for Member Angelides*): Mr. Chairman, can I ask a follow-up question?

CHAIR STARR: Sure.

MS. LLOYD (*for Member Angelides*): Is there anything in the regs that actually prevents the Board from funding a priority-two project or requires that the Board place all priority-one projects ahead of priority-two projects?

MR. HALL: No, there is not.

And, as a matter of fact, I was looking back through some of the old minutes of one of the old board meetings, and while there was no specific action taken, there was certainly discussion that the Board would not necessarily fund all the priority-one projects before funding any priority-two projects, you know, within either category.

PAUL ROBERTS: Good afternoon. My name is Paul Roberts. I'm chairman of the Vallejo Library Advisory Board. And I'm here speaking on behalf of the Springstowne Library in Vallejo, which is 1037.

First, I'd like to thank the staff and the Board for a lot of hard work, under very difficult circumstances. There's just simply not enough money right now.

I understand from our county librarian, that efforts are already being made to start in the process for the next bond. And I know that we'll be supporting that very strongly. And I know that everyone in the room will be.

One of the things that sticks out to me is -- unfortunately, maybe it's part of how the criteria was written -- is kind of the level of library service is not defined

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

in terms of the area of service per person, per square foot, which is not certainly only arbitrary but certainly one that affects us.

The Springstowne Library serves a community of about 60,000. Vallejo is 116,000, I think, in the last census; and this library, the current library, is

3,000 square feet, and it serves a population of 60,000. That's not .5 square feet per person, which a lot of the outstanding ones that you're seeing recommended tonight; it's about one-tenth of that, in terms of the level of service.

The Springstowne Library that's being proposed is in the center of a community. It will be the catalyst for new development, and it is just completely ringed by schools. We have a poor population but a very diverse one. Our library is 50 years old, and certainly it seems to have not been mentioned so far today. So I'm assuming we're not going to see a nod; but when we have one-tenth of the kind of service area that many of the libraries that you're forwarding right now are something -- may seem to be amiss in the regulations, that I would urge you to look more carefully at because, for whatever reason, we have just an incredibly small library serving, again, 60,000 people. 3,000 square feet doesn't even begin to serve the needs.

So thank you for your consideration. We'll be back. And, again, thank you for your hard work.

MS. HILL: Good evening. My name is Mary Hill. And I'm the Assistant City Manager for the City of Vallejo. It just happened that the two of us were back to back, to bring you greetings from the very lovely city of Vallejo, California.

I would like to say that I'm certainly not standing here to ask you to pull anybody off the list and stick us on. I would like to tell you that it's a very sinking feeling to sit back there and hope that maybe someone will say, "Add Vallejo, add Vallejo," and it never happened.

But I do want to tell you a bit about Vallejo. He shared some information that's important. One of the things that he failed to mention, that I think is very important, and I want you all to be aware of it, is that Vallejo -- Springstowne Library is in an area that serves approximately 13 schools. Most of the schools in that area do not have libraries of their own. And on a day-to-day basis, the teachers line the students up and walk them to this small 3,000 square feet library that sits next door to a fire station, where there is absolutely no parking. It's in a very declining area of town. And to add this new facility in the Springstowne area would be tremendous for our city in particular and part of the area.

One of the speakers before me said that they were rated as the seventh-most diverse city. According to the 2000 census, Vallejo was rated the number

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

one most diversity of our size in the nation, with the majority of the population made up of minorities.

We have lots and lots of different languages spoken in our city. English as a second language is something that's quite common. This project would include advances in the area that can help to service the adult population as well as the student population.

And I would also like to add that we do hope to be in second round. We have not acquired our land. We are one of the applicants who have an option to purchase. It costs money to keep renewing options to purchase. We have gone out and secured the matching funds in hopes that we would take home good news today. But if we can't, we can't. And we would be prepared, hopefully, to come back in the second round.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, ma'am, for your very gracious statement.

MR. TATE: My name is Steve Tate. I'm a councilmember from the City of Morgan Hill. I wanted to address you today, kind of to make sure that the name, "Morgan Hill" got raised. It seems like it's the only way today that it will get raised.

We had an "outstanding/very good" application. And I have to totally agree with the very nice lady from Castroville. Maybe we hid some of our outstanding characteristics from you; but we learned a lot, as she did in this round. I want to thank the staff and the Board. They've always been gracious. They've always been fully forthcoming on any questions or anything that we've had. I appreciate their help on this round, and we will appreciate everything we can get on the next round.

Thank you very much. And we'll be back.

CHAIR STARR: Councilman, thank you, sir; but may I bring up one point, too? And this is -- any applications that are not funded today -- there's a probability that we'll not be able to fund all of them today -- we will work, and you can come to the next cycle, we will work with you on your applications on an equity basis. In other words, we'll determine how much time we can give; and we'll give that same amount of time to everyone equally on working on your application.

MR. TATE: And we appreciate that very much. And as I said, you have in the past, and that's all we can expect. And thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

RON ROBERTS: Good afternoon. My name is Ron Roberts. I'm the Mayor of Temecula. And I did come up here to answer some questions for Mr. Angelides, and I'm sorry he had to leave, so maybe I can answer the questions for the rest of you.

One of the things he brought up was raw land. Unfortunately, we don't have any raw land left. We've gone from about 19,000 in 1989, to 75,000. In fact, we're trying to buy some open space right now to preserve it for our city.

Temecula is an old rural area from the past. It was Indians, the Pechangas. Now we've incorporated it, and we gotten much bigger.

To talk about the very small branch library

we have, which is a county facility, it's located originally -- it's located in the north part of our city because it was a joint Murieta/Temecula library in the past. And Murieta has dropped out and they have their own library. So it's in a location that has very little parking. It's in a county facility area and very hard to get to.

One of the most important things I think I need to bring up, is that this is a great regional benefit,

if we can get the funding for our library. We used to have nothing but farmland between Hemet and Temecula, which is about 20 miles away. Right now, there's over

50,000 dwelling units approved or built, with more on the way. There's no other library between those two cities, and you're going to have 50,000 dwelling units very shortly.

I hope that I heard three good comments, positive comments from three different people there. Please know that we were rural once; we're not anymore. The county, of course, is approving a lot of projects around it. This library will not just be for the City

of Temecula, but the surrounding county area. It will be run by the County of Riverside.

And I hope that answers the questions. And please, please, it's still on there. Keep it on there. We need this.

Thank you.

MEMBER PACHINO: May I make one --

CHAIR STARR: Yes, please.

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment**

Thank you, Your Honor.

MEMBER PACHINO: Interestingly enough, if I'm not mistaken -- and please correct me if I'm wrong --

to support your project a little bit and I'd like to echo that -- is that we don't have a Riverside County project on our list, other than the Temecula project. And I just wanted to make Board members aware of that as well.

RON ROBERTS: And also one other thing, if you look up there, you see a 4,529 percent population increase from 1980 to 2020. It's not even close to anything else that's up there.

Thank you.

MS. CROWELL: Hello. My name is Suzanne Crowell and I am here from the City of San Marino; and I'm here with four other mayors -- ex-mayors -- one mayor, ex-mayor -- I'm an ex-mayor -- and the head of our library and the head of our school board. And our project has not been mentioned, so I'm going to mention it. I was told that tonight -- or today -- tonight -- no, it is tonight -- was not the appropriate venue for a presentation. So I'm not going to give you that. I think our grant spoke well for us. We will be back. It doesn't sound like we're going to get very far tonight.

But, on the other hand, I have a question. Listening to the criteria that you've all spoken about, San Marino, opposite of Temecula, has a very small growth, because we are completely grown. I mean, we have every -- a lot on -- every house is on every lot, and we cannot expand.

Our library was built in 1951. And we've been patching it, probably ever since. So we really feel that we need this. We think our application was good.

I'm not sure why our site was not considered "outstanding," because we thought it was. And we're going to take you up on that offer to talk with you for however long that you'll allow us to, to find out what we could do to better our application for the second go-around.

And I thank you very much for allowing me to speak.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Madam Mayor.

In thinking of those categories -- the distinctions between "outstanding" and "very good," there are there, but the "very good" was very hard to win, so

I think you should be proud of that for winning that for San Marino.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment

MS. CROWELL: And we are.

CHAIR STARR: Sir?

MR. MADAFFER: Thank you, Dr. Starr and Members of the Board. My name is Jim Madaffer. I'm a city councilmember for the City of San Diego. And in a prior life, I actually was involved in two library campaigns. And I see some of my colleagues that are here from

San Diego, where we -- both of them passed over

50 percent, but we know the magic number in California is far greater than that.

As a city council member now, myself, along with our mayor, Dick Murphy, have been working on a library system in San Diego, that includes, out of our

34 branches in the City of San Diego system,

24 facilities that will either be scraped and rebuilt

or remodeled. A 312 million-dollar project that the

City Council recently voted on a financing plan.

In order to accomplish this, as part of our financing plan, we still need to raise about 54 million dollars in grants and philanthropy, and that's where you come in. For the last two years, we've held numerous public meetings and prioritizations of our library facilities in San Diego. As an example, to give you an idea as part of our library system what we've done, we've recently opened a new branch in Mission Valley. This branch is open 76 hours a week. We think it's the longest operating branch library anywhere in the country, unless somebody wants to tell us different. We don't know about it.

It's right along our trolley system. It's open 10:00 to 10:00, Monday through Friday, 10:00 to 6:00 on Saturday, and 2:00 to 10:00 on Sundays. And, boy, you should see it at ten o'clock on a Sunday night. It is a busy place.

Of our three applications that we have before you today, I wanted to reference two of them, in particular. One is the San Diego Central Library, which is to be located in our downtown area, which serves the entire region, not just part of San Diego. It's nationally recognized by consultants in the technology field as part of our building program. And the city, obviously, has had an outstanding record in building libraries, as we have for the last number of years.

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment**

We have a proven track record with these outstanding libraries, and we have a wonderful relationship with our city schools district and a strong plan that works closely with the school board, teachers, parents and students.

The City of San Diego also has the financial capacity to operate these facilities, as recently indicated by the council action, that all new facilities that we'll be operating will have their operating costs completely covered.

The other project that I wanted to talk to you about is Project 1051, it's our Logan Heights Branch, located in the Barrio Logan area of San Diego. Logan Heights is on a school site, and it's also adjacent to another school in an urban area that's been socially and economically disadvantaged. And unlike other growing cities, where we might expect new development to pay for these facilities in this area, we don't have that luxury. In San Diego, we've built six new libraries in the last several years, and new development has paid for those facilities.

We have a wonderful and a strong partnership with the San Diego Unified School District. Our Superintendent of Schools, Alan Burson, is a very strong supporter of this project. He's also conducted needs assessment with the boards, parents, teachers and students.

As I stated, we have the financial capacity to operate this facility. We have a very strong technology plan, with a large computer lab of over 50 computers to serve students, and a new model that our school district plans to follow with other public libraries.

Due to the diversity of the community, many of the books at this new facility will be in multiple languages.

I'll tell you, in conclusion, that the current facility that we're replacing, it was built in 1927.

It has not ever seen any renovation. It is less than

4,000 square feet, with very few computers. In fact, if we plug in any more computers, the circuit breakers pop.

We feel that our applications are a model for the state, in the spirit of the rules and regulations that you've adopted. I certainly thank you for your time and consideration. I know you've put in a lot of time on this, and I really respect that and all of the work that you've done.

I certainly urge your support.

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment**

I guess kind of like the Chargers yesterday, I kind of feel like having heard the discussion, to move forward in inches, I'd kind of like you to take it across the line for us and certainly urge your support for Logan Heights.

Thank you so very much.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you sir.

MR. HALL: Dr. Starr, I have a set of keys that were left in one of the restrooms, it has a preferred savings card for Albertson's on it.

Is that yours?

MR. FILUTZE: Dr. Chairman and Board Members, thank you for giving me the opportunity to say a few words. I'm not going to keep you very long, and come in defense of our community.

I'm from the City of San Marino. My name is Vince Filutze, and I'm one of the those former mayors that Mrs. Crowell just mentioned about, and I'm still on the council.

But I did want to know if there is -- instead of just making comments, if I could ask the Board a couple questions for clarity in my mind, if that's okay,

Dr. Starr?

CHAIR STARR: Yes, certainly; because the questions are a form of a statement, and you are certainly able to do that.

MR. FILUTZE: Okay, under the Bond Act factor, under "needs of urban and rural area," can you explain, without me going into all of this, a few of the criteria that you base your decisions on when you say "urban and rural"?

Can anybody answer?

CHAIR STARR: Mr. Hall?

MR. HALL: The Board, early on, tried to decide on a definition between "urban" and "rural," and it was not successful. So the bottom line is essentially the way this is being applied is, it's being applied by Board members in the sense of trying to make sure in the funding decisions, that the needs of both rural and urban areas are met.

And by default, in essence, that there are some rural projects funded and some urban projects funded. But there's no set division, in terms of how they have specifically defined "urban" and "rural" projects.

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Excerpt: Public Comment**

MR. FILUTZE: Okay. Because in your mind, you have to make the decision on what you think it is, when you're making the decisions on gauging these factors.

The other is that our city has two "outstanding" and one "very good." And apparently, that brought us into the "very good." I also look at our small community, because we have a population of a little over 13,000, and we're not a very big city, we have no industry and very little revenue, under our tax base -- property taxes, and that's how we survive. We have about a two to three percent business that brings in a little sales tax revenue.

The thing is that we have a one percent, or .06 percent population growth. So what I'm hearing today of everything that you've talked about, all these other communities that are much larger and have this expanded population growth, it looks to me like -- I don't want to say we wouldn't have a chance, but how does one come in defense of when you don't have population growth?

CHAIR STARR: Mr. Smith?

Paul Smith, the attorney for the project.

MR. SMITH: Well, the criteria for population growth, I think, are quite straightforward. The question is how do you determine them? And it's just a question of numbers. And that is one of the factors that was put into the regulations and it comes out -- you know, the authority from the statute.

So if you don't have population growth, you're just not going to score very well in that particular category. Hopefully, you'll score well in other categories.

MR. FILUTZE: Okay. Then my second question is that if we have two "outstanding" and one "very good," we're still in the same category, even when we come back to apply again, because we can't meet that criteria. So if we cannot meet that criteria, are we wasting our time to come back here and apply again?

CHAIR STARR: That's a very good question, sir.

As you'll watch this evening unfold, in certain cases, the amount of money being asked, that amount of money fitting a hole in what is a budget, it begins to count for something. I think that your city deserves to stay in the running for the full cycle; because at some point, it may answer the question -- the needs of this Board's program in a very dramatic way, and I just would not want to see you withdraw from that.

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment**

MR. FILUTZE: Right, and we don't have any intentions to withdraw.

And that was my next question, is that we are asking for 6.8 million dollars, so that is probably one of the lowest you have here, or amongst the lowest, asking for those funds. And we would hope that that would be a consideration when it comes our second time around.

One other question I have here, is that --

and I've heard some things. And under Prop. 14, I believe -- you could correct me on this or give me some information -- that criteria for "poor" or "rich" or "ethnic" background, or anything, has nothing to do with it; is that correct?

CHAIR STARR: That is not spelled out in the Bond issue or in the regulations.

MR. FILUTZE: But I did hear about poor areas earlier.

CHAIR STARR: Well, the individual Board members here have the right to express that as their values, as they come to this. But in no way was that part of our evaluation process, as part of the staff, because it's not authorized by statute.

MR. FILUTZE: Right. Because I would hate to see someone voting on something like that because it would exclude other people in the arena for the next time around.

CHAIR STARR: Nothing in staff evaluations takes that into consideration, because it's not in the regulation. It's not in the bill.

MR. FILUTZE: Okay. Well, I thank you. I just wanted that clear in my mind. So thank you very much.

CHAIR STARR: Yes, ma'am?

MS. WILSON: Linda Wilson, the Bruggemeyer Library in Monterey Park.

Monterey Park is in Los Angeles County. And as was said earlier, there's nobody on the list in

Los Angeles County, the most populous county in the state.

We are on the "outstanding" list. We're number two. We're the two libraries that are caught up in this situation where we're number two priority.

There is not too much that we can do about it. We can't tell the school district to take out their

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

T-1 line, so that we qualify as number two.

We can do as many agreements as we want to with the school, and we could easily get them on our homework help, our computers, our very active literacy program, our citizenship; but it doesn't do us any good because it's still not going to move us to that level.

There is probably one piece of land that we can build on in the community, but we can't afford it. We don't have enough money for it. So we're going to be priority two. And so is there really any reason for us to reapply again? Because there's no way we're ever going to get off of priority two, as the man from

San Marino said. But we're "outstanding, priority two."

We do have community support. As many others have mentioned, we passed a tax measure with two-thirds, which includes staffing -- it includes the expansion of the library, our match; it includes staffing; and it also allowed us to be open seven days a week.

We didn't have quite enough money for the match so we did fundraising. We raised 450,000 in three months. Our Congresswoman, our State Senator, and Assemblywoman were the honorary co-chairs of this fundraising campaign. The city contributed another 900,000, which they're not sure they're getting, but they will contribute it.

The community is a poor community. It's got a poverty rate probably of at least 16 percent. And it is a minority community. I'm not going to compare which is the most minority community in the state or the nation; but I can tell you, we have a 92 percent rate of minorities in Monterey Park.

We've got a very large Chinese-American population, a large Japanese-American population, a very large Vietnamese, Chinese-American population and a large Latino population.

And so I would recommend, again, that the Bond Board go back to looking at the "outstanding" applications. And if you don't, then we'll have to consider if we want to apply again or not.

But thank you.

MS. MASTERSON: Marina. My name is Lenore Masterson. I'm the citizen chairman of the Marina Larger Library Committee. We say "Larger Library," because although, technically, Marina has not had a library, ever, we've always had library services going back to 1913.

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment**

First, it was -- the library was delivered to the community on horseback, then we set up a collection in a chicken coop, followed by a two-bedroom house. And now we have a storefront, sandwiched in between a pet store and a sandwich shop. It's 2,000 square feet, and it is the only library facility in town.

As of August of this year, all the schools

in the Monterey School District, except the high school, have closed their library facilities. So the only

after-school homework center in Marina is our 2,000 square foot library. The need is extreme.

I know we made it into the "very good" category. And we thought we had a very, very, very good application. But -- and we will be back for Round 2. But if you consider us in this round, we'd appreciate it because time is of the essence. We have everything put together except this one piece. And if we could get this one piece, we could get a library that will serve not only as a community resource center, but a homework center and a -- I've noticed that in the application,

the partnership with the schools was important. I don't know how we could be more partnered with the schools than we are now because we are picking up that one vital key element, not to mention the independent studies classes that go on, the "English as a Second Language" classes that we have, the Vietnamese language classes, and the other adult classes literacy classes that we have.

This library, probably for the size of it, is probably the most used library, and this desperately needs a new facility. And because it's a storefront, we technically don't have a library. This is our first chance at having a real one.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

Sir?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Mr. Chairman, I am with the City of Tustin. It's Project 1058 on your list.

We are one of the fastest growing cities in Orange County. And our area takes into consideration both the Santa Ana Unified School District and the

Tustin Unified School District. And as most people know, the Santa Ana Unified School District has been the fastest growing school district in the state over the last few years, with population projections continuing to go along those same lines.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

The existing facility was built in 1974. It hasn't been renovated. It's in very bad shape. It has poor lighting. The technical abilities there are very poor. There's no T-1 lines. There's not even an ISD line into the building.

The HVAC facility is very poor. And we have some parking problems, too.

Like the representative from Vallejo, this is an urban infill project. We've had to go out and assemble several different properties, using option agreements to do it. And it's been done on a voluntary basis, which is very time consuming and a very costly process to do.

We recognize that we're not ranked in the top two categories this time. We hope to learn in the next go-around and to present our story better, like some of the other applicants. And we'll try and work with staff next time.

Thank you for your consideration.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

In the interest of time, if your library has been argued for, let's have that be sufficient, thereof. Unless you have something absolutely, positively new to say - which, I guess, you do.

Go ahead, sir.

MR. BUCKLEY: I don't think it's new. But I'm Jim Buckley, City Librarian for Torrance. So you know I have a special interest in North Torrance.

And I want to express appreciation to the Board Members that have supported our project. And I just felt I had to come up and say something, because it feels like we're being dangled and maybe slipping through the cracks, and I don't want that to happen.

I'm not going to go through all of our positive characteristics. You have our grant there and our joint usage is a very strong point in our application. So I won't take any more of your time. I know you have tough decisions. I just wanted you to know that I hope you support our Torrance.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir, Mr. Buckley.

Yes?

MS. INGERSOLL: Good evening, Chair, Board Members. My name is Diana Ingersoll. I'm the Director of Public Works for the City of Seaside. On your application, it's Seaside Library, 1062. We were very close to being placed in "very good." Unfortunately, that has not happened.

California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment

I did want to come up here and point to you Central California. We do exist. We're here. Central California.

It has been a great learning experience for me. I've been in this process, trying to get a library grant for three years. We own the property already. We have hired an architect to build it. We have all of the matching funds. We are ready. We just need money for the construction.

And we will be back with a vengeance on the second round and have all "outstanding."

I now realize what we are missing. We have not been able to put in words what is necessary, so that the Library staff can see that we are in dire need of a new library.

I do want to thank the Library staff for their assistance and the wonderful workshops that you've been providing.

And I will take you up on your staffs' time.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, Madam. In you, the Library has a great asset; and thank you for your gracious attitude.

Yes, sir?

MR. NORDBAK: Dr. Starr, my name is Greg Nordbak. I'm a former mayor of Whittier, and current city councilman.

I'd like to talk about a different view here. And I have a city manager who is in the back of the room, cringing. But I'd like to talk to you about the process possibly for the second round. I don't think -- I'm not going to sell you on our points. I think everybody in this room has certainly valid points for having a new library, and everybody is here deserving.

I thought your first motion to fund them all was outstanding. Unfortunately, you didn't get a second.

But I think in the future, I would like to see possibly if there's a mechanism that we could come up and bring a contingent, as we did today, to support it and make a presentation, and sell our case a little better rather than reading on paper. I don't think that's possibly the best way to understand the need of a community and the impact. And we'd be certainly willing to do that. It would be probably more fruitful and less expensive to send people up here today when we get here and find out we really don't have a shot.

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment**

I also would wish there's a way that it could be posted earlier, so that those of us traveling up here would not have had to come today and take all the time out from staff, and as well as myself.

Now, we bought into the system that it is a -- and I am not whining -- we bought into a system that was not going to be political, and yet I've sat outside after the break and talked to three separate lobbyists representing people here. We chose not to do that.

Assemblywoman Corbett -- this is not an attack on you because, if I was an elected official to my district, I would lobby for them as well. But I don't think it airs well to lobby from the pulpit up there, as a representative of this, given the rest of us have been told this is not political.

So I'd like to see that, possibly some different mechanisms for those of us to reapply and everybody to get their point back across.

CHAIR STARR: Mr. Mayor, before you leave, thank you for your comments.

Mr. Mayor, no lobbyist has approached staff and no lobbyist has approached me.

MR. NORDBAK: I understand.

CHAIR STARR: And that's what I said at the beginning of my remarks, and I hold that.

MR. NORDBAK: But there's sure a lot of them here.

CHAIR STARR: How do you tell what they look like?

(Laughter)

MR. NORDBAK: Actually, it was quite innocent.

I asked him what city, and they said, "Well, I'm actually a lobbyist, and I represent this city, this city, and this city." And it was shocking, as I was sitting outside, to be honest with you.

CHAIR STARR: Well, I've had some city managers call me, saying, "When we're go through the evaluation process, you'll be sent a lobbyist." And I said, "To do what? Certainly not to talk to the civil servants, because that's not in the spirit of what they're doing, and not to talk to me because I'm a civil servant, fulfilling the mandate of the law and the regulations."

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment**

So I can only approve -- I can just assure you that no lobbying is entered into the evaluation.

MR. NORDBAK: I appreciate that.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you, sir.

MS. STARKE: Hi. Good evening. My name is Nicky Starke. I'm the Director of Library Services for Stockton-San Joaquin County Public Library.

And I'd like to make a couple of observations, if I may. This has been really a heart-wrenching last hour and a half or so to hear the screaming need for public libraries throughout the state. And every one of them, as the previous gentleman mentioned, is truly important to their community. It also is a testimony to that importance and how all of our communities really do gather around, circle around a campfire called the "public library." And I appreciate that very much. I appreciate the Bond as it stands. And I am very supportive of further bonds.

I'd also like to put in this plug it, too, that the 67 percent threshold to approve tax support is certainly a tyranny of the minority, and I'd like to see it at least on par with the school districts for construction, that that bond threshold be lowered to

55 percent. And as long as I have legislative ears, I can't resist saying that.

I'd also like to say two more words to you, and they are "Central Valley."

Thank you very much.

MS. GAETANO: I'm Darlene Gaetano, Assistant City Librarian from the City of Newport Beach.

I would like to say briefly that we've heard about the complaints, but no mention of the 651 families that contributed over a million dollars in three months, plus all of the community organizations, the friends,

the foundation, the school groups. And also the original intent of this grant at the beginning was a co-located situation.

We are, to our knowledge, one of the two co-located sites that submitted grant applications.

We have an outstanding library. We would like to offer outstanding service in a co-located setting. And, again, I would like to mention that we did have over

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment**

651 families in that neighborhood get together and contribute over a million dollars.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you so much.

MS. HILDRETH: Good evening, Board Members. Susan Hildreth, City Librarian, San Francisco Public Library.

It has been a difficult afternoon; but I just wanted to -- and I should speak for my project, 1021, the Excelsior Branch Library Renovation. And the best thing going for it is that it's 2.7 million dollars; and if you need a filler somewhere, look at Excelsior.

(Laughter)

CHAIR STARR: Stick around.

MS. HILDRETH: I will.

But on a serious note, I would just like to remind the Board that you are allocating up to

150 million dollars. That's the largest piece of the Bond Act pot. So I think your allocations are really going to send a message to the field. And I would encourage you to consider funding all the "outstanding" projects, including the renovations and models and expansions.

A lot of our urban libraries, including

San Francisco, will continue to bring remodel projects forward. And the message you're sending now is of concern to me in how I deal with my prioritization of projects.

I would also remind you that if you don't fund the 150 million, it rolls to the third cycle, when all of us will have gotten wisdom from all of the staff here as to how to make our projects better. So I would just encourage you to think about that.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

Sir?

**California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment**

MR. HOUX: Yes, my name is Steve Houx, the Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Manteca. Our project is 1065.

I can give you the same information all the others have given you. All these projects are great. You know, we've got a large percentage of growth and our population, our projects downtown and it helps to revitalize the downtown, the central core.

But whether you've got an existing or not, I'm not sure if that's an issue.

I would also remind you that the Central Valley does exist. There are several projects in the Central Valley, none on the outstanding list. So if you're going to pursue this line, I will certainly encourage you to consider one of the projects in the Central Valley for funding.

Perhaps this is a mixed message, but I think there is a concern regarding credibility of the process. Objective criteria, as objective as possible have been developed through a public process. I think your staff has done a fantastic job and a difficult job in evaluating these projects, have given you a list of outstanding projects. Unfortunately, Manteca is not on that list.

I do agree that the second-priority cities, although they were not given a guarantee, I believe they had an expectation, and they committed significant time and resources towards an application. And I certainly hate to see them turned away when they've been rated so high.

So I would encourage you to simply fund the outstanding list and let the balance roll over to

Cycle 3.

Thank you.

CHAIR STARR: Thank you.

Thank you, sir.

Yes?

UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: I attend Solano Community College. I am not part of the city council or anything like that, and I'm not a librarian. But I've been going to Solano Community College. And it seems as though the majority of the students who attend Solano Community College live in Vallejo. And it seems -- and the majority of them live like 30 minutes outside of Vallejo versus an hour or an hour and a half from Sac or Davis. And most of the professors usually

***California Public Library Construction and Renovation Board
December 2, 2002, Meeting
Transcript Except: Public Comment***

suggest that the students go to Sac or Davis. And it's not easy, coming all the way to Sac or Davis from Vallejo or places right outside of Vallejo.

So Solano was also talking about Measure G, which will put an extension of Solano Community College into Vallejo. And we would appreciate it if you gave us a grant for the library.

Thank you.